Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Jonah Leroy (Doane) Robinson (1856-1946) was the first secretary of the South Dakota State Historical Society and superintendent of the State Department of History from 1901 to 1926; and,

Whereas, Doane Robinson believed in the importance of bringing tourist traffic through South Dakota with grand granite sculptures highlighting the state's history perhaps to include Lewis and Clark, Sacajawea, and Red Cloud; and,

Whereas, Robinson's letter to Sculptor Gutzon Borglum on August 20, 1924, proclaims, "In the Black Hills of South Dakota are opportunities for heroic sculpture of unusual character. Would it be possible for you to design and supervise a massive sculpture there?"; and,

Whereas, Borglum's visit and enthusiasm encouraged Robinson and brought publicity to the notion of a carved monument project in South Dakota with attention going beyond the state and throughout the nation; and,

Whereas, After viewing the Black Hills and its rock formations, Borglum eschewed Robinson's idea to carve the Needles in favor of what became the Mount Rushmore we know today — likenesses of presidents carved into a giant granite mountainside; and,

Whereas, Hundreds of people were vital to the carving of Mount Rushmore, from those who raised money to those who wielded jackhammers…but none was more deserving of a significant recognition in the historical records of the Black Hills, South Dakota, the United States, and indeed, the world than Robinson:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 11, 2017, as

"DOANE ROBINSON -- 'THE FATHER OF MOUNT RUSHMORE' DAY"

in South Dakota,

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State